The Light of the World

Sept 1929

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jn.8:12. "I am the light of the world."

INTRO. We take our text from the autumnal period of X's ministry.

The Springtime of choosing and planting.
Making no claims for himself.
Letting his works speak for themselves.
Time of laughing waters and budding promise

The Autumn is different. Serious and indicative of promise fulfilled, of ripened harvest.
Foliage of forest and bush painted in rich colors.
The Third Period of the Galilean Ministry is the Autumn of the Life of Christ.
Every day a triumphal march towards Calvary.
Every thot uttered sharpened with seriousness and weighted with the wisdom of God
His friendships and companionships had ripened, and the autumnal winds of opposition were separating the wheat from the chaff.
How Jesus years for companionship
How he loved his little group of true friends!
How he tried to make everybody realize that on fellowship with mankind depended the very happiness of God.
How he intensified the devotion of his followers for Himself. Thru sympathetic understanding of friendship and fellowship his disciples learn to understand their Master.

During the earlier periods of his ministry Jesus had proclaimed himself the "Bread of Life" and the "Water of Life" And now in the autumn the Christ makes a most startling and sweeping claim. "I am the light of the world".

The occasion of his utterance is conjectural. It may have been in the temple before the great candelabra during the Feast of Tabernacles, the lights of which could be seen far out ofer the entire city. Symbolized the pillar of fire by which the goodness and majesty of Jehovah were manifest to the Israelites. Before these bright shining lights Jesus may have made his startling utterance.

I. Light is the symbol of Wisdom.

An educated man is "enlightened". By association with Jesus the Disciples became educated men. He was their instructor by precept and example. They gained from Him a spiritual insight that surpassed that of the leducated and learned men of that day.

As the sun is the center of our solar system so Jesus claims to be the center of every true philospphy of life and of every true religious system.

The failure of both philosophy and theology to satisfy the mind and heart of man.

Philosophy leaves the mysteries of life unsolved and theopogy in the realm of religion leaves one just as unsatisfied

But Jesus Christ, by his Way of living and by enabling us to livy his Way brings us to a satisfying knowledge of God and duty an and destiny.

As the earth depends upon the sun for its beauty and fruitage, so the followers of Jesus depend upon the Christ, for their moral and spiritual beauty and righteousness.

The only true philospohy of life and theology of religion is to live with Jesus and live Like Him- then life becomes purposeful and useful and radiates with peace and joy and happiness.

II. Light is the symbol of Health. Sin is disease. The Light of the World is destroying the sin of the world. Jesus way of living makes for health. Light destroys disease germs. Jesus destroys the sin-germs. Companionship with Jesus has the same effect upon the soul as a sunbath hasupon the body. The Light of the world gives us the life-force ~~which~~ which alone has the power over death.

III. Light is the sympol of power.

The pulling power of the sun-in springtime.

Awakens life in every seed. Draws the sap up from the rootsetc.

And so the Light of the World to the Xn believer is a strong guidingpower. "He that follow th me shall

not walk in darkness."

These are perilous and perplexing times. At times one hardly knows what to do or which way to turn. Like trying to find direction in the dark. But he who walks with Jesus has the light of life. He sees clearly which way to go.

Most beautiful lace made in the dark, with just a ray of light shining upon the work. Jesus is the ray of light shining upon us and our work as we weave the patterns of our lives.

To know Jesus is to love Him and to love him is to walk in the light of day.

Conclusion. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared, to his followers,"Ye are the light of the world."

Enlightened Xns compliment the Light of the world even as all living things on earth both plant and animal compliment the sunlight.

"Let your light so shime before men, etc."

By living and growing and serving in the Jesus Way we become lights in the world to help others into the Kingdom of Life.

Cns should always have their faces illuminated with the sunshine of Christ's smile.

The little boy who lived in Chicago.

Pair of new slippers. Sunshine in rainbow colors thru window

"Look, what is this, mamma?"

"That is God's smile, and I hope tyat when you grow up to be a man you will always stand in God's smile."

Yrs later. Fortune. New house. Unpacking the precious things of memory. First object in trunk was the pair of little slpppers. Note pinned to them, telling of the incident of the rainbow sunshine.

"I am afraid, William has gotten far away from God's smile. God grant he may return again and stand in the smile of redeeming love in the Sun of Righteousness."

That man then faced himself seriously, and returned again to God's smiling Light. Used his fortune with whic to bring hope and health and happiness to others.